



FEATHERED WORLD

CANARY AND CAGE BIRD FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.



AUSSIE BIRDS DISAPPEARING + CALCIUM

BUSH HERITAGE SAVES PLAINS WANDERER.

NZ PIGEON RETURNS AFTER 24 YEARS

STELLAR SEA EAGLE WANDERING THE USA

MINUTES ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING , 2ND MARCH 2022

MINUTES ZOOM GENERAL MEETING , 2ND MARCH 2022



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- The editor welcomes contributions, but retains the right to amend articles and reports accordingly.
- The opinions expressed by the authors are their own and not necessarily those of Federation or the editor.
- Articles may be copied from *Feathered World* Magazine, providing the author and magazine are acknowledged appropriately.

Canary & Cage Bird Federation of Australia Inc.

ZOOM MEETING DATES 2022

General Meetings 4th May, 6th July, 7th September & 2nd November

AGM 1st March 2023

Meeting commences at 8:00 pm

Anzac Room, Ashfield RSL, Liverpool Road, Ashfield

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*From: **John Walsh**—Phone: (02) 9451 0911 email; ktwsh@optusnet.com.au*

Have you updated your club details?

Please send in any club detail changes, including changes of position to the secretary asap. Thank you.

IMPORTANT NOTICES!

NOTICE TO ALL AFFILIATES

For legal and insurance requirements, affiliates are requested to notify the Federation Secretary of changes in office bearers, public officer and delegates, also changes of the club's meeting location, email and postal address.

Notification should be on club's letterhead or if required a hard copy or electronic copy of the *Office Bearer's Information and Privacy Provision Consent Form* is available from the Secretary.

Ron Robertson, Secretary, The Canary & Cage Bird Federation of Australia Inc. PO Box 230, Frenchs Forest ,NSW 1640 ; Phone: 02 9452 2396 ;Email: federationbirdclubs@aapt.net.au

2022 RING ORDERS

Supplementary orders can be arranged for all species during 2022.

Clubs requiring an order form, should contact the Secretary / Ring Officer.

Clubs requiring an order form, which must be completed, should contact **Secretary, Ron Robertson, Email: federationbirdclubs@aapt.net.au**

2022 SHOW & SALE DATES

The usual magazine show and sale dates lists were omitted from the February / March magazine owing to the limited availability of updated information and the uncertainty at the time of publication.

However as show and sales dates become available they will be published on the Canary & Cage Bird Federation website.

Alternatively members and potential attendees can check with the relevant club to confirm if a show or sale will be operational and what if any special rules will apply.



The Canary & Cage Bird Federation of Australia Inc now have a Facebook page!!
The link is: <https://www.facebook.com/CCBFA>
Like our page to stay updated with current avicultural events.

AUSSIE BIRDS DISAPPEARING DUE TO WARMING

It's called "the escalator to extinction": as mountain habitats are warmed by climate change, resident plants and animals are continually forced upslope until they simply run out of room.

Scientists the world over have long feared the impact of such events but now concede it's actually happening across one of the planet's most spectacular rainforest regions, in far north Queensland.

Researchers Stephen Williams and Alejandro de la Fuente have just completed an assessment of bird populations in the Australian Wet Tropics World Heritage Area, stretching 650 kilometres from Townsville to Cooktown.

Examining the abundance and distribution of 42 species, they found compelling evidence that as temperatures rise, lowland birds are moving uphill and displacing other species.

Birds that live at high altitudes along the rugged coastline - most of them rare upland species - have been pushed out of the lower levels of their ranges, with their numbers declining by almost half.

Meanwhile lowland bird populations in the same areas have increased 190 per cent.

With data collected over 16 years from 114 sites between sea level and 1500 metres, the James Cook University pair say their findings suggest a bleak outcome.

"The outstanding universal value of the Australian Wet Tropics World Heritage Area, one of the most irreplaceable biodiversity hotspots on earth, is rapidly degrading," they say. "These observed impacts are likely to be similar in many tropical montane ecosystems globally."

Worldwide estimates of extinctions over the remainder of the century as a result of climate change suggest potential losses of between 15 and 35 per cent of all species.

The projected impact is expected to be especially severe in mountain ecosystems with more than 80 per cent of species facing high extinction risk.

The global significance of montane ecosystems is heightened in the tropics, with approximately half the world's species of plants and vertebrates believed to be endemic to 34 identified global biodiversity hotspots.

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Professor Williams and Mr de la Fuente say bird species will especially continue to experience upslope shifts.

"Left with nowhere else to go, montane species are predicted to become increasingly susceptible to stochastic extinctions or declining populations," they say. "This so-called escalator to extinction has been predicted, and now observed, in a number of places and taxa around the world."

Australian Wet Tropics rainforests were World Heritage listed in 1988 and are described as the planet's sixth-most irreplaceable protected area.

They are home to 370 bird species, 11 of them, including the endangered southern cassowary, found nowhere else.

Nine of the endemic species are confined to up-land rainforests. They include the tooth-billed bowerbird, golden bowerbird, bridled honeyeater, fernwren, Atherton scrubwren, mountain thornbill, grey-headed robin, northern logrunner and Bower's shrikethrush.

Source: www.perthnow.com.au



DID YOU KNOW....

The black swan's role in Australian heraldry and culture extends to the first founding of the colonies in the eighteenth century. It has often been equated with [antipodean](#) identity, the contrast to the white swan of the northern hemisphere indicating 'Australianness'. The black swan is featured on the flag, and is both the state bird and state emblem of [Western Australia](#); it also appears in the [Coat of Arms](#) and other iconography of the state's institutions.



BUSH HERITAGE HELPS PLAINS WANDERER SURVIVAL

There's nothing else like it in the world, but the Plains-wanderer is also critically endangered and at risk of imminent extinction.

Found only in the arid grasslands of south-eastern Australia, there are estimated to be between 250 and 1,000 of these small, ground-dwelling birds left in the wild today.

Although a Plains Wanderer resembles a quail with lankier legs and a finer bill, it's actually a closer relative of gulls and shore birds. The South American Seedsnipe – a plant-eating shorebird – is its closest relative and it's thought the bird's evolution could trace back 60 million years to when Australia was connected to South America and Antarctica! ¹



Standing about 12-15cm tall and weighing 40 to 95 grams, Plains Wanderers are small fawn coloured birds that blend in seamlessly with the plains of arid Australia. Their dappled feathers include white and blackish marks, with spots and streaks on the head and neck.

Adult males are light brown and have fawn-white underparts with black crescents. Females are larger and sport a distinctive white-spotted black collar around the neck and reddish brown chest.

Once found from Victoria through to Queensland, small fragmented populations are now only holding on in western Victoria, eastern South Australia and in the western riverina region of NSW.

Habitat structure is very important. Their preference is for semi-arid, native grasslands with a diversity of plant species, which usually occur on red-brown soils. Typically, good habitat contains around 50% bare ground, 40% herbs, forbs and grasses (mostly under 5cm but with some tussocks for concealment) and 10% fallen vegetation litter in which they'll forage for seeds, leaves and insects.

Most recorded sightings in the last 30 years have been in the western riverina of NSW, but surveys across 5,000km² of this area in the 1990s found even in this stronghold, only about 5% of the land was suitable habitat, shrinking to 1% or 2% in very hot or wet years when grasslands became too dense or were grazed too low. ²

In suitable conditions, Plains Wanders behaviour is largely sedentary, although they may be more active during droughts.

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Each bird would have an average home range of around 12 hectares. Males and females with overlapping ranges form breeding pairs, with the larger females defending their territories and mating with several birds in a season while the males incubate eggs and raise the young. In suitable conditions females can lay multiple clutches of two to five eggs a year.

The main reason for the bird's dramatic decline since European settlement has been the conversion of native grasslands for agriculture or dense pastoral use however Plains Wanderers are also easy prey for foxes.

If disturbed their first instinct is to run. While not entirely flightless, they tend to fly low and poorly, relying on camouflage to avoid being seen (we can attest to the fact, they're very hard to see in daylight and easier to find at night with spotlights).

When Bush Heritage bought Boolcoomatta Reserve in South Australia's arid rangelands back in 2006, it was to secure a landscape under-represented in Australia's National Reserve System. At the time there had only been a few records of Plains Wanderers on the property.

With sweeping plains of saltbush shrublands and grasslands, Boolcoomatta has enjoyed more than a decade of conservation management and has also benefitted from effective goat and fox control through the state government's Bounceback baiting program.

Enter science intern Emily Matthews who spent three months at Boolcoomatta in 2017 and was surprised when a Plains Wanderer ran in front of her as she was driving across the property slamming on the brakes to let it pass, Emily counted herself lucky to have seen the rare bird at all. But just metres further down the road, she spotted a second.

"Our first thought was, 'What's happening here?'" recalls the graduate intern. "We couldn't believe it. Later one night we found a female and then we found a male nearby, so we assume they're a pair. We also found an active nest with eggs," she says.

Overall, Emily recorded eight Plains Wanderers during her three months! This led to working with the National Plains Wanderer Recovery Team to implement a new monitoring program. Thirty acoustic 'Song Meters' were deployed across the reserve and on neighbouring properties in suitable habitat with sound recordings analysed by a call-recognition software program. Since then Bush Heritage Ecologist Graeme Finlayson has also recorded other birds while out working out in the field.

To lose such an ancient and unique species would be devastating.!

NZ PIGEON: KERERŪ RETURNS TO HATCHERY AFTER 24 YEARS

'Pidge' disappeared from Rainbow Springs in New Zealand in 1996 and was not seen again until his return".

He might not have had the best homing instincts but a New Zealand

native pigeon – or kererū – named Pidge made it back, eventually, to the place of his hatching after 24 years missing in the wild.

Pidge, who was hand-reared at Rainbow Springs – a wildlife and nature park in Rotorua, on New Zealand's North Island – disappeared in 1996 and was not seen again until his return. That would make the bird, identified by a numbered band on his leg, 29 years old; most references list kererū lifespans as between 15 and 25 years.



"To have Pidge up there almost 30, older than some of the keeping staff, was really exciting," said Emma Bean, the kiwi hatchery manager for the park. He is likely to be the oldest living kererū, she added. The park is investigating reports that a slightly older bird might have lived at Hamilton Zoo and has since died.

The kererū – which triumphed in 2018 New Zealand's Bird of the Year contest – has a distinctive white feather apron and noisy wingbeats. They are known for their drunk, gluttonous nature – occasionally falling out of trees after an over-consumption of berries – and generously rounded shape.

But Pidge was "skinny" and in poor condition when a keeper found him on the grounds of the National Hatchery at Rainbow Springs, Bean said. The park had kept his return a secret until they knew he was "doing all right," and he had spent a month feasting on grapes and bananas.

"He's starting to show signs that he wants to fly, so we'll be moving him into the aviary this week," she said.

Records did not show whether Pidge had absconded from the park in 1996 or was released, but keepers assume he had lived nearby and returned for "a bit of TLC in his retirement years" when feeding became a struggle, Bean said.

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An 88-year-old trout keeper and another long-time staff member remembered Pidge from the early 1990s and were “delighted” by his return which came at a rocky time, just before the park was able to reopen after New Zealand’s Covid-19 lockdown. International tourists have been barred from entering the country, and the park was forced to lay off some staff before receiving a one-off shot of government relief funds this month to cover operating costs.

“It just syncs in really nicely with the fact that Pidge was hatched and raised here and has come home to roost,” said Bean.

He had also returned home close to New Zealand’s [annual kererū census](#), a citizen science project to find out how many of the birds remain. They are not considered an endangered species but numbers have fallen in recent decades.

One mystery of Pidge’s homecoming remains: kererū are often seen in pairs and it is unknown whether he left behind a girlfriend when he returned to the park.

Once Pidge moved to the aviary, keepers would look out for a bird watching him from outside, Bean said.

“If he does have a partner out there I’m sure she’ll find him,” she said. “It’s only been a month ... I hope she hasn’t moved on too quickly.”



DID YOU KNOW....

The pre-poop dancing and bum wiping routine of the Mistletoe bird plays a vital role in the life cycle of this little native bird with its highly adapted diet.

After these sweet little red-breasted birds eat mistletoe berries, it defecates by twisting its body sideways, then purposely wipes its poop on the branch its perched on. The seeds of the berries, which are still intact, are sticky after passing through the digestive tract of the bird. These sticky seeds cling to the branch of their host tree and grow.

The parasitic mistletoe only grows high up on other trees and so this relationship ensures both the bird and bush can survive.



INSIDE THE AMAZING CROSS-CONTINENT SAGA OF THE STELLER'S SEA-EAGLE

The journey of the lost Asian bird started more than a year ago. Follow along as birders gather in awe and speculate on its next moves.

At 10 pounds and with a 7-foot wingspan, the Bald Eagle is one of the largest flying birds in the United States. Yet the two juvenile Bald Eagles I saw perched in a tree in Massachusetts on December 20, 2021 looked like pigeons compared to the other bird on the limb with them: a Steller's Sea-Eagle.



Everything about seeing a Steller's

Sea-Eagle in New England is incredible. It's an awe-inspiring bird—about a foot longer and taller than an adult Bald Eagle and as many as five pounds heavier, with a massive golden bill that looks like pirate treasure. It's rare: There are [only about 4,000](#) of this vulnerable species left in the wild, compared to hundreds of thousands of Bald Eagles. And of course, it's not supposed to be here. Steller's Sea-Eagles are native to far eastern Russia, the Korean peninsula, and northern Japan.

So how did this bird get to New England? It flew. The whole way. And it's still flying now.

Vagrancy—the tendency for birds to show up far outside their normal range—is one of the most exciting aspects of birding. The Steller's Sea-Eagle is the epitome of a vagrant bird, and the same individual has been tracked across North America since it was first spotted more than a year ago. The timeline and travels of this single bird, from Alaska to Texas to eastern Canada to New England, must be seen to be believed. Now the

The Steller's Sea-Eagle's Journey

Matanuska-Susitna County, Alaska

Americans first became aware of the bird when Alaskan birder Josh Parks photographed a Steller's Sea Eagle along the Denali Highway. It was big news, but not shocking. These eagles occasionally show up in Alaska, with a handful of records in recent decades. But the Denali bird was unusual for being spotted inland, far from its typical habitat. It would be a sign of things to come.

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Coletto Creek Reservoir, Victoria, Texas

The bird's trail went cold for months. Then, the Barnhart Q5 Ranch & Nature Retreat in Texas posted a photo, and birders were stunned. Could this be the same bird? No wild Steller's Sea Eagle had ever come anywhere near Texas before. Still, a massive winter storm had blown through weeks before, and there were no jesses or other signs of captivity in the photograph. The image didn't have detail to compare unique feather markings, either, so birders could do little more than scratch their heads. With no further sightings, the mystery continued.

Gaspé Peninsula, Quebec/New Brunswick, Canada

The bird popped up next in late June—more than 2,500 miles away in eastern Canada. Gerry Isaac, a ranger from the Listuguj Mi'gmaq First Nation, first spotted the bird in a tree on June 28 and got the word out. People from across Canada converged on the location, but it was only spotted a handful of times, mostly on July 1. Still, high quality spread-wing photographs allowed birders to notice something crucial: The distinctive border between the white and brown feathers on the upper wings was an exact match to the bird previously seen in Alaska. It was confirmed the two sightings were of the same individual. The eagle continued to bounce around the Gaspé Peninsula in July and early August.

Avon River, near Falmouth, Nova Scotia

Almost three months after its last sighting, Nova Scotia biologist Phil Taylor spotted the Steller's while birding along the Avon River. Dozens of local birders rushed to the scene to enjoy the bird during its short, two day stay. Then, gone again.

Taunton River, Massachusetts

Late on December 19, word got out of a sighting in southern Massachusetts that occurred a week before. The bird was re-found early on the 20th. This was most U.S. birders' first real shot at seeing the bird, due to pandemic rules for crossing into Canada, so New England's entire birding scene was in a scramble. (I immediately begged off the Christmas Bird Count I was working on when the news hit. Sorry!) Three masked friends and I sped down I-95 from southern Maine to Dighton Rock State Park where—miracle of all miracles—we watched the massive, rare, incredible, wandering Steller's Sea Eagle tower over nearby Bald Eagles. A crowd of 200 or so people were elated, whooping and high-fiving and shaking their heads with incredulity. Hours later, after we left, the eagle left its perch. It was not seen again.

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Sheepscot River, Maine

I had written a blog post about my journey to Massachusetts, and later a comment notification popped up. A woman named Linda Tharp let me know “it’s in Five Islands ME today, 12/30.” I quickly found Linda on Instagram. Could she send any photos of the bird? She did. It was the eagle. Another scramble.

By the next morning, the eagle was being enjoyed by hundreds of birders for three glorious days on the scenic coast of Georgetown. Cars packed into the small wharf area alongside lobstermen and women working to unload their traps. The scene was ripe for conflict but instead it was one of joy, with bemused lobstermen laughing about the surprise crowds and one even giving birders a ride on his boat to see the bird perched behind an island. The eagle went missing on January 2 but was spotted on January 6 not far away on another stretch of the river.



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THE STORY CONTINUES.....

The bird seems to be hanging out in Maine for the time being, but where might it go if it disappears again? For a bird as large and powerful as the Steller's Sea Eagle, and with its history of flying great distances, there's no telling where it might show up. It has shown a preference for tidal rivers with tall trees and lots of islands. Many areas along the Maine coast fit that bill, including the Harpswell area and the Piscataqua River. If it has flown south, perhaps to escape dropping temperatures in Maine, likely areas could include Boston harbor, Buzzards Bay, and back on the Taunton River. Further than that, the Chesapeake Bay, Delaware Bay, or Hudson River are all possibilities.

It's hard to know exactly what condition the wandering Steller's Sea-Eagle is in, but by all accounts it appears healthy. After all, it's clearly strong enough to fly across an entire continent and take several hundred mile flights every couple of weeks. It has been observed feeding on fish at several locations and displays no sign of injury or illness.

Why the bird has strayed so far from its native range is anybody's guess. Marshall Iliff, eBird project leader at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and one of the first to spot the eagle in Massachusetts, says scientists are just beginning to understand the tendency of raptors to wander. "Raptors are more and more blowing our minds with their movements," he says, "and with more observers, more cameras, and digital tools like eBird, we're seeing that long-distance raptors dispersals are a rare but regular phenomenon." Iliff says that many of these wandering raptors are juvenile birds dispersing to find new areas to live. There are other reasons birds show up far from their normal range, including habitat loss, weather events, and simply migrating in the wrong direction. (In its native range, the declining population is threatened by habitat loss, lead poisoning, climate change, and nestling predation by brown bears, according to International Union for Conservation of Nature.)

Though it's far from home and will likely never make it back, there's a chance that this eagle could find a place it'd like to stay in North America. It's not uncommon for individual vagrant birds to thrive in their new territory. In fact, it's possible that Steller's Sea-Eagles could breed with local Bald Eagles, as evidenced by this supposed hybrid eagle seen in Juneau, Alaska, in 2004.

Asked to guess the future of the Steller's Sea-Eagle, Iliff said he could easily see it wandering North America for years to come. The only thing that's certain with this bird is that, wherever it's found, it'll leave a group of stunned and elated birders in its wake.

MALE FINCHES ACCEPT EXOTIC MATES

When looking for a mate Male zebra finches are less choosy about the species of their mate., whereas females are more species specific.

Research from the University of Auckland, funded through a Marsden grant, studied the social behaviours of zebra finches. Male zebra finches, when given a choice between same species or other related finch species, did not show social discrimination. In contrast, female zebra finches consistently chose to spend more time next to male zebra finches over males of other species. However, behavioural displays of song and calling confirmed that males are able to tell females of their own and foreign species apart.



The research, undertaken by PhD student Dana Campbell, BSc (Hons) student Rachael Shaw, and Associate Professor Mark Hauber of the School of Biological Sciences, is published in the latest issues of the journals *Ethology* and *Behavioural Processes*.

"By studying the mate choice of zebra finches, which form life long monogamous pairs, we can see that male birds are far less particular about the species of their mate than females," says Ms Campbell. "These results confirm expectations of Darwinian theory and may have an impact on zebra finches in the wild, where they often live and breed in mixed species flocks in their natural habitat in Australia. It may also have implications for aviary practices, as the genetic pool may become mixed with inter-species breeding."



DID YOU KNOW....

A flock of flamingos is called a stand or a flamboyance.

Flamingos lived on freshwater lakes in northern South Australia 20 million years ago.

They disappeared with the changing climate



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THE CANARY & CAGE BIRD FEDERATION of AUSTRALIA INC.
MINUTES FOR THE A.G.M. MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 2nd MARCH 2022.

The President Sam Davis opened the meeting at 8:10 p.m. welcoming the delegates and thanking them for their attendance,

ATTENDANCE:

There were 17 delegates in attendance including, S Davis, R Robertson, J Forrest, M. Cameron, N. Lawler, N. Love, M. MacPherson, J. Norriss, B. Whiting, M. Renolds, C. Gruntar, B Kerr, J Tadjell, J Palmano, M. Gallagher, B. Lloyd, M. McKenzie.

APOLOGIES: were received from 9 delegates, W. Wilson, I. Ward, B. Barnes, I. Cindric, B. Goleby, L. Hendry, P. O'Dell, W. Robinson, E. Wilson endeavored to connect to Zoom, messaged giving apologies for Shoalhaven, – moved N. Love seconded B. Kerr apologies be accepted - Carried.

MINUTES:

The minutes for the CCBFA AGM held Wednesday 3rd March 2021 were screened for the delegates and with nothing arising from these minutes, they were adopted on a motion moved by M. Reynolds seconded by J. Forrest as a true record of the 2021 AGM - Carried

CORRESPONDENCE:

NSW Fair Trading. Lodging Annual Return for 2020.

It was moved by B. Kerr and seconded by N. Love that the correspondence be received, and the secretary's action endorsed - Carried

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

The secretary Ron Robertson gave his report for the 2021 year. He expressed his appreciation to all clubs for their communication throughout the year and all fellow committee members and Delegates for their ongoing support and attendance. A special mention to President Sam Davis stating Sam's exceptional skill in documenting and representation on issues with various State Government bodies. Moved B. Lloyd seconded J. Forrest that the Secretary's report be received and endorsed - Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The financial statements were screened with the treasurer giving an analysis of the income and expenditure. The financial position was sound. Moved B. Kerr seconded J. Palmano that the Treasurer's report be received and endorsed - Carried.

AUDITOR REPORT:

In the absence of an auditor, the President read the statement on behalf of the auditor, stating they had verified the Financial Statements and in his opinion the Financial Statements represented a true and accurate record as at 31st December 2021. It was moved by J. Palmano and seconded B. Lloyd that the Audit Report be accepted and endorsed - Carried.

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FEATHERED WORLD REPORT:

The President expressed our thanks and appreciation to the editor Jamie Norris for his dedication and presentation of the publication. It was moved by J. Forest and seconded J. Palmano that the Feathered World Report be accepted and endorsed - Carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

2021 was once more dominated by COVID-19. This caused pretty much all affiliate club's meeting, shows, sales, conferences, etc. Most clubs are only now beginning to run meetings and other events

Reviews of all animal welfare legislation continue with Animal Care Australia (ACA) leading in terms of representation of all who keep animals in captivity.

In NSW a draft Animal Welfare Bill 2022 is now being considered which will replace the current 3 Acts governing animal welfare, namely the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979, the Animal Research Act 1985 and the Exhibited Animals Protection Act 1986. CCBFA has been active regarding this review since the beginning and in my role as VP of ACA I will be presenting at a number of Parliamentary Inquiries as the Animal Welfare Bill 2022 is refined.

In terms of native animal licensing, we have made some progress in NSW with a new team now to be appointed by NPWS to look into the matter. It is good to hear the ACT is going down a sensible route with finalisation to occur once government staff are able. Victoria is in the very early stages and sadly WA is still yet to implement their promised consultation committee.

There have also been a range of local government matters. Gladly many of these have been resolved fairly swiftly and were in general the result of a single overzealous compliance or policy officer.

In 2021 we finalised our NSW bird sale code and redrafted as a professional document that conforms to modern standards and guidelines. This document, I'm confident, will go a long way to ensuring the long term self-regulated future for bird sales in NSW.

A disappointing and very frustrating proposal to introduce a national registration scheme for all exotic birds, NEBRIS 2.0 if you like, re-emerged in earnest. Although the review by KPMG indicated a simple DNA parentage system only for birds intended for export, a new review led by a team from Thinkplace was engaged. I'm confident this Thinkplace review was the brainchild of Warren Entsch MP, with the support of PRIAM and the Associated Birdkeepers of Australia Inc. (ABA). Sadly PRIAM, the ABA and then from the Avicultural Society of NSW (ASNSW) would not oppose a national scheme. To be fair, the ASNSW's strange stance was limited to their President Con Tsintarakis as all other ASNSW committee members have expressed their opposition directly to me. We await the recommendations from this review. The whole saga was an enormous time waster for me and many others as we prepared submissions, attended meetings, and had numerous phone discussions.

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Issues with the ABA have been ongoing during my time as CCBFA president. They have been a net negative for every issue where they have been involved. I won't bore you with the details – but sadly no doubt may need to dredge them up as time goes by. The time and effort that Ron and I and others have wasted countering the ABA is incredibly frustrating. For a time, they were almost completely inactive, sadly more recently they have begun causing pain once more. Ron and others around the country inform me the ABA has been an issue for far longer than my involvement, decades even.

It is time for the ABA to be shut down.

I am a busy person, with a finger in a range of pies, both business wise and voluntary work for aviculture and within my local area regards mining and various other local issues. I am no longer willing to offer my time as CCBFA president whilst the ABA continues in operation, therefore this will be my last year as CCBFA president unless the ABA is shutdown prior to the 2023 AGM.

Many thanks to all on the committee and to those who have assisted with comment, donated time to attend government meetings, critiqued my work and supported aviculture in Australia in so many other ways. On behalf of all clubs and their members nationally a heartfelt thanks.

Now to our Secretary Ron Robertson. Ron's work behind the scenes is legendary - insurance, rings, preparing meeting documents, compiling show and sales dates, managing correspondence, etc, etc. Ron is critical to the success of aviculture in Australia. We are all most grateful to Ron.

Moved by B. Whiting and seconded M. Gallagher that the President's Report be accepted and endorsed - Carried

HONORARIUMS:

It was moved that the honorariums remain the same as 2021 and be paid. –

Moved J. Palmano and seconded C. Grunter - Carried.

This concluded the business of the AGM.

It was moved N. Love and seconded B. Lloyd all positions being willing to accept their re-appointment, the appointments be accepted in block - carried.

The election of office bearers being as follows:

President: Sam Davis.

Vice Presidents: Warren Wilson, J. Palmano, B. Barnes.

Secretary / Treasurer / Ring Officer, Public Officer, Minutes Secretary,

Insurance Officers: R. Robertson

Equipment Officer: John Walsh.

Government Liaison Representatives: Sam Davis.

Auditor: Greg Davie

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Management Committee: C. Isbister, J. Flood, J. Forrest, C. Gruntar, B. Lloyd.

GoH Selection Committee: President, Secretary, G. Roberts, W. Wilson.

Guest of Honour Dinner Co-ordinators: J. Palmano and C. Gruntar.

Feathered World Editor: Jamie Norriss

Feathered World Distributor for printed copies: Ron Robertson, the electronic version to be prepared by J. Norris to be uploaded to the web site.

Feathered World Committee Member: J. Norris, R. Robertson, S. Davis, W. Wilson.

The Feathered World to be issued bi-monthly in February / March, April / May, June / July, August / September and October / November.

This concluded the Annual General Meeting which was closed at 8:49 pm. The President declared the AGM closed with the President Sam Davis commencing the March 2022 General Meeting.

THE NEXT FEDERATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

will be held at 8:00 pm on Wednesday 1st March 2023

DID YOU KNOW....

In a surprising twist, an album of bird songs winged its way ahead of Grammy-winning artists, including Taylor Swift on the Top 50 chart in Australia.

Songs of Disappearance soared to the number-three spot as Australians showed support for endangered bird species. Songs of Disappearance—a 24-minute-long work composed entirely of squawks and squeaks made by endangered bird species—briefly nested at number three ahead of pop star Taylor Swift and even soaring over holiday favorites by Michael Bublé and Mariah Carey.

“We did it! Thanks to your incredible support we reached #3 in the ARIA charts, ahead of Taylor Swift, ABBA,” and other artists, the album website states.

Songs of Disappearance includes the chatter and calls of 53 of Australia’s most endangered birds. It features “a chorus of iconic cockatoos, the buzzing of bowerbirds, a bizarre symphony of seabirds, and the haunting call of one of the last remaining night parrots,” according to the website.



THE CANARY & CAGE BIRD FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.

MINUTES OF THE ZOOM GENERAL MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 2nd March 2022.

The President opened the meeting at 8:50 pm, following the conclusion of the AGM.

ATTENDANCE:

There were 17 delegates in attendance including, S Davis, R Robertson, J Forrest, M. Cameron, N. Lawler, N. Love, M. MacPherson, J. Norriss, B. Whiting, M. Renolds, C. Gruntar, B Kerr, J Tadgell, J Palmano, M. Gallagher, B. Lloyd, M. McKenzie.

APOLOGIES: were received from 9 delegates, W. Wilson, I. Ward, B. Barnes, I. Cindric, B. Goleby, L. Hendry, P. O'Dell, W. Robinson, E. Wilson endeavored to connect to Zoom, gave apologies for Shoalhaven, – moved N. Love seconded B. Kerr apologies be accepted - Carried.

MINUTES: All minutes published in *Feathered World* and on our web, ccbfa.org.au/journals.

The minutes for the 2nd February General Meeting of Federation published on the Web. It was moved J. Forrest and seconded B. Kerr that the minutes be adopted as a true record of the February General meeting – Carried.

Matters arising out of the minutes: *None other than matters that can be held over for Reports and General Business.*

In-coming correspondence as follows:

- Affiliated clubs. Notification of 2022 proposed dates for show, sale and auction.
- Affiliated clubs. Notification of office bearers and delegate
- Affiliates ordering 2022 rings.
- [Affiliated clubs](#) requesting assistance with matters regarding the insurance.
- Coditech confirmation of ring orders.
- Email response from RAS section representatives.
- RAS notification of prize monies TRILL sponsorship acknowledged.
- Lloyd Marshall, RAS questions.
- President / Govt Liaison Officer. Sam Davis- ongoing communication, received in response to communication with Federal Government and States Govt. Departments

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Newsletters / Journals – Received from various clubs, with notification of club events for insurance:

- PET Industry News. Newsletters Feb'22
- Central Coast Avicultural Society. Newsletter Jan'22
- Newcastle Budgerigar Club Inc. Feb'22
- Coral Coast Bird Club Inc. Newsletter Chatterings # 277 Feb'22
- Native Cockatiel Society of Australia Inc. Feb / March'22 NCSA News.
- ANPA Newsletter February 2022
- Yorkshire Canary Club of Victoria, February'22
- Shoalhaven Avicultural Society Inc. Bird Tales, January'22
- Far North Queensland Bird Breeders Jan. / Feb'22

Out-going correspondence as follows:

- Change of Office Bearers and Privacy forms sent to various clubs.
- Six affiliates follow up for payment of their account for the 2022 affiliation and insurance.
- Coditech, placement of new orders for 2022.
- Ring Secretaries of clubs emailing reminder notice for placement of rings for 2022.
- Affiliated clubs assistance with insurance matters requesting information, amalgamation etc.
- Email to respective section representatives of the RAS, two-day exhibition, requesting clarification on the consultation on source of funding for prize monies.
- Lloyd Marshall, response to RAS questions.
- President / Govt Liaison Officer. Sam Davis- ongoing communication with Federal Government States Govt. Departments

MATTERS ARISING OUT OF CORRESPONDENCE:

It was moved by J. Palmano and seconded by M. Cameron that the correspondence be received, and the secretary's action endorsed - Carried

TREASURERS REPORT:

The accounts were submitted for payment and endorsement.

It was moved by J. Norriss and seconded by B. Kerr that the payments and the Treasurers actions be endorsed - Carried

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PRESIDENT REPORT

President Sam Davis presented the following detailed report.

Proposed National Registration Scheme for Native and Exotic Live Birds.

We are still awaiting release of the Thinkplace report and recommendations.

Submission to the Inquiry into Animal Welfare Policy NSW 2022

As foreshadowed, I've just finalised and submitted our CCBFA submission to the upcoming Inquiry into Animal Welfare Policy NSW 2022 is now public on our website.

<https://www.ccbfa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/ccbfa-nsw-inquiry-animal-welfare-280222.pdf>

Details of the Parliamentary inquiry are here...

<https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/committees/inquiries/Pages/inquiry-details.aspx?pk=2853>

The draft Animal Welfare Bill 2022 referenced in our CCBFA submission is here...

<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/animal-welfare/animal-welfare-reform>

NSW Native Animal Licensing

Peter Stathis of NPWS advises he has advertised for a team leader internally within the state government system. This person, once employed, will lead as an expert panel is formed to finalise the review process. CCBFA will be central to the process with native bird licensing the first priority.

Bird sales and auctions code of practice

Craig Jeffrey (Shoalhaven Avicultural Society) at the February CCBFA meeting had requested we revisit the discussion/debate over the use of all wire cages for birds smaller than a rainbow lorikeet in NSW.

The President asked delegates to present arguments in favour of the use of wire cages for smaller birds. No delegate responded. Neil Lawler (Hunter Finch Club) and Mark Gallagher (Parrot Breeders and Exhibitors) noted their clubs remain in favour of no all wire cages for birds smaller than rainbow lorikeets. An email received from Kempsey Macleay Bird Club Inc., endorsed the current wording. Once again, all delegates expressed their support for no all wire cages for birds smaller than a rainbow lorikeet.

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The current code endorsed at the July 2021 CCBFA Assembly will come into force from 1st September, 2022.

Clubs can access the code on our website via the documents tab or at the following link -

<https://www.ccbfa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/CCBFA-NSW-Bird-Sale-and-Auction-Standards-and-Guidelines.pdf>

Insurance update

The following is reproduced from the February meeting minutes. Ron and I passed these words to our insurance broker who in turn ran them by our insurer, who have approved as accurate. I have also submitted some further words for approval regards non-CCBFA club's events and the possible ramifications for CCBFA members which I will share in due course.

I (Sam Davis) explained to the meeting that all insurance policies only covered the insured parties. No insurance policy insures everyone without restriction.

In the case of CCBFA's public liability insurance, it is our affiliated clubs and their members whilst participating in club events that are insured. Anyone who is a paid member of any CCBFA insured club is insured at all CCBFA club events.

If someone who is not insured, that is, a member of the public (who may be a guest) is injured at a club event and a CCBFA club or member is at fault then as the club is insured they can claim under the CCBFA public liability policy.

If a person is selling, exhibiting or part of the event itself then they are deemed to be a participant. If that person causes injury or property damage to someone at the event then the club is likely to be found to be at fault. If the person is a member of a CCBFA club then they are insured and hence a claim on the CCBFA policy can be made. If the person is a non-member participant, then they are not insured and hence the club may be exposed and liable for the injury or property damage.

This is how all public liability policies operate – only the insured can make claims on the policy.

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An important extra coverage with CCBFA's public liability policy is the participant to participant coverage which is not a standard part of most public liability policies. This extra coverage means that if an insured participant injures or causes damage to another insured participant then a claim can be made.

This participant to participant cover (aka member to member cover) is not the case for most public liability policies. For example, if organisation ABC Inc. does not include this coverage, then at an ABC Inc. insured event, if an insured participant is found liable for injury or damage to another insured participant then no insurance claim can be made, and the club will likely be liable for the injury or damage costs.

CCBFA has made inquiries regarding statements made to us claiming the ABA policy covers everyone at ABA insured club events regardless of whether they are a member of an ABA insured club or not.

The advice is clear – like all insurance policies, only insured parties are covered.

A policy to insure everyone would not be approved by any insurance company as the risk is enormous and unquantifiable, and even if such a policy was possible the premium would be equally enormous so not affordable.

Response to questions from Lloyd Marshall of Talking Birds 24/2/2022

Lloyd Marshall, editor/owner of Talking Birds digital newspaper has once again asked some inflaming sensationalist style questions. In general, it is wise to ignore such questions from Lloyd, however on this occasion the questions included a personal attack on the secretary, were sent out to numerous clubs, and also to staff at the Royal Agriculture Society NSW, therefore a response was justified. Whether Lloyd prints my response is unknown. Anyway, here it is..

Hi Lloyd

Thank you for your interest in the 2022 Sydney Royal Easter Show aviary bird competition and display. The event runs from the 8th to the 19th April 2022 at the Sydney Showground at Olympic Park. The aviary bird competition is held over 2 days, this year on the 12th and 13th April 2022. A number of volunteers organise and staff a significant avicultural display that runs for the duration of the show. The display features aviaries, hand-raised .

birds and various banners and brochures promoting aviculture to the hundreds

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of thousands of people who pass through the event annually.

As you well know Lloyd, I have been personally involved in the finch competition and the various displays for a number of years now. I recall meeting with you at the event in 2017 - some images attached which you may like to include alongside this letter within Talking Birds.

In terms of CCBFA involvement – we do not run or oversee the event in any official capacity, it is managed and operated by the competition staff of the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW (RAS) with whom CCBFA have had a close working relationship for numerous years. Underneath the RAS staff are representatives for each of the five major bird groups exhibited, namely budgerigars, parrots, canaries, love birds and finches. CCBFA routinely includes the RAS competition on our agendas as most of the representatives attend our CCBFA meetings as do many of the judges. However, this is largely informative – decisions are made by the RAS staff in collaboration with the representatives of each of the five bird groups.

Although CCBFA do not directly manage the event, CCBFA member clubs and qualified judges from our clubs have been central to the running of the competition aspects of the event for as long as anybody can recall – in the order of 100 years. The competition, although certainly run competitively, is not viewed as a serious competition by the majority of exhibitors. Rather it is a fabulous chance to positively showcase aviculture to thousands of members of the general public. By this measure it is certainly a major successful marketing event, all thanks to the efforts of many many volunteers.

Display aviaries have come and gone over the years. The recent aviaries have been a feature I've personally encouraged and assisted with over the past 6-7 years. It is the committee of The Finch Society of Australia Inc. (FSA) whilst I was President that first suggested the inclusion of one or more display aviaries. In 2017 (coincidentally the year you attended Lloyd) the FSA invited the Avicultural Society of NSW (ASNSW) to join us in showcasing aviculture at the event. Many of us were on the committee of both the FSA and ASNSW, the ASNSW was struggling for members somewhat at the time and furthermore Graeme Phipps (who was ASNSW

President at the time) was able to organise some of his TAFE students to assist, this added some much-appreciated young faces to our volunteer ranks.

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The FSA has organised and led the aviary display since with the assistance of the ASNSW. We have always had joint volunteers, banners and various brochures. In fact, a new banner is currently being designed with the approval of both the FSA members and ASNSW members.

Sadly, the current President of the Avicultural Society of NSW (ASNSW), Con Tsintarakis, appears to be unwilling to work with the FSA or his own members or even his own committee. I am advised that Con has organised sponsorship from Trill, the ABA and the ASNSW. To date neither the ASNSW committee nor the ASNSW membership has approved any donation to the RAS. There is no official notification in any communication from the RAS to exhibitors. Despite this I am personally aware that such a donation was arranged by Con without RAS knowledge or consent and outside their processes and system. Having worked closely with the RAS staff over many years I am aware Con's intrusion has not been appreciated and has caused some frustration.

The Avicultural Society of NSW (ASNSW) remains a CCBFA affiliated and insured club as has been the case for many years. This insurance, as is the case for all our member clubs, provides public liability coverage for all meetings and events including their Hawkesbury Showground sale held last year. Recently CCBFA has been informed of a number of outrageous claims allegedly made by Associated Birdkeepers of Australia (ABA) representatives including Con Tsintarakis and ABA President Craig Jeffrey regarding public liability insurance. One such outrageous claim was made as recently as our last CCBFA February 2022 meeting by Craig Jeffrey. Readers may like to examine the minutes of this meeting. All minutes of all CCBFA meetings are available publicly within our magazine Feathered World and under the Journals tab on our website www.ccbfa.org.au.

The Associated Birdkeepers of Australia (ABA) has never, to my knowledge, had a role in the showing side of aviculture. If, as we suspect, the ABA are donating to the RAS competition it is unclear why their funds would be allocated in this manner. As with expenditure by any club or association, this is a matter for their membership to decide. Do any ABA member clubs know? The FSA certainly has not been asked or informed and quite a number of their paid life members were certainly not consulted.

Does the ABA release minutes publicly? When was their latest magazine, ironically titled "The Communicator", last released?

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To my knowledge (and I was ASNSW Vice President until recently) there are few, if any, members of the ASNSW who show birds seriously. Those few ASNSW members who enter the RAS competition are also members of other clubs that have a stronger showing focus, or they are like me, entering birds to enhance the display with any awards being more luck than good management.

The total number of entries in this year's RAS competition is in the low 500s, which is pretty much the same as it has been in recent memory. In any case, the maximum number of birds that can be exhibited in 2022 is set at 600 as stated in RAS documentation.

Various proposals to sponsor a range of events, including the RAS competition, have been put to CCBFA delegates at meetings a number of times since I have been President. I understand similar motions have been put numerous times in the past. Recent motions have not been passed as the feeling of the CCBFA delegates has been that it is unwise for CCBFA, as a national body, to sponsor individual events. CCBFA is of the view this would set a precedent requiring similar sponsorship for potentially hundreds of events run by clubs and representative bodies across the country.

The Associated Birdkeepers of Australia (ABA) has in recent years been inactive with regard to most issues and a net negative on the few matters to which they have contributed. For example, the ABA supported the push by PRIAM for a National Registration Scheme for Native and Exotic Live Birds and recently refused to oppose the proposal alongside all other avicultural bodies nationally. Then there is the ABA's recently released "Endorsed National Code Of Practice For The Conduct Of Bird Sales And Auctions", this code is unknown to all bird clubs and representative bodies I have contacted in all states of Australia. They claim this code also applies to poultry and pigeons – again not one club or representative body I've contacted is aware of this code. Indeed, as I stated at our February 2022 CCBFA meeting "most have been shocked and appalled and others have stated the ABA is irrelevant and should be ignored". These are just two matters – there are many other issues where the ABA has either deliberately or simply through ignorance worked against the best interests of aviculture.

CCBFA has tried to collaborate with the ABA on numerous occasions. I personally attended one of their meetings a number of years ago where agreement was reached for executive of both ABA and CCBFA to meet and discuss resolution.

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Craig Jeffrey as ABA President, and as has so often been the case, ceased communicating. The ABA simply did not reply to our numerous emails and phone calls attempting to schedule the meeting. Such complete lack of communication and inability to act responsibly, professionally, and openly has been the hallmark of the ABA over the past decade.

I and many other representatives nationally have to date chosen to simply ignore the ABA. I can no longer do so. The ABA is actively harmful to aviculture nationally. Lately a significant proportion of my time has been wasted on countering the ABA's negative activities.

The time has come for the Associated Birdkeepers of Australia (ABA) to be shutdown.

I personally 100% support Ron Robertson on this matter and on all matters of which I am aware. As hundreds of clubs nationally will attest, Ron's work for aviculture over numerous decades is beyond reproach.

Moved B. Lloyd and seconded by J. Tadgell that the reports be accepted, and reporters thanked – Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS:

- **2022 Ring Orders** supplementary orders can be arranged for all species during 2022. Clubs requiring an order form, should contact the Secretary / Ring Officer.
- **Guest of Honour Dinner.** The dinner coordinator J. Palmano, advised that as the secretary had not received nomination for consideration, we will not hold a dinner.
- **Sydney Royal Show update.** In the absence of I Cindric the President gave a brief report advising there were over 500 entries, in line with past years. The two day show days will be Tuesday 12th and Wednesday 13th April 2022. Benching will be either Monday 11th from 6pm or prior to 8am on Tuesday 12th. The aviary bird display and pet bird feature will run for the duration of the show, with the Brincat family and their had raised parrots.

The President thanked the delegates for attending, as there was no further business the meeting closed at 9:50 pm.

Notice of the General Meeting

Wednesday 4th May 2022 at 8:00 pm
Ashfield R.S.L. Liverpool Rd. Ashfield
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